

# Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



## Newsline

A glance at news affecting Laughlin

### Pilot graduation

The graduation ceremony for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 00-05 is scheduled for 10 a.m. today in the Operations Training Complex auditorium.

The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Tom Hruby, assistant adjutant general for air, North Dakota.

### Chiefs induction

The 47th Flying Training Wing chiefs induction ceremony is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday at the Club XL ballroom.

Attire for the ceremony is mess dress or semiformal. For more information, call Master Sgt. James Ketchel at 4355.

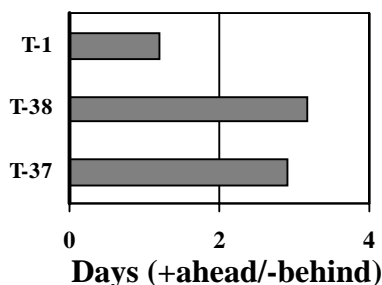
### 96 FTS change

Lt. Col. Glenn Larsen will assume command of the 96th Flying Training Squadron from Lt. Col. John J. O'Connor II in a 3:30 p.m. ceremony Feb. 25 at the flightline in front of building 320.

### Mission status

(As of Feb. 16)

#### Student Timeline



Sorties flown in FY 00:

23,840

Hours flown in FY 00:

35,702

Pilot wings earned in FY 00:

104

Pilot wings earned since 1963:

11,750

## 85th named best FTS in AETC

By Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Staff writer

The Air Education and Training Command recently named the 85th Flying Training Squadron the top flying training squadron of the year.

The 85th competed against 18 flying training squadrons in all of AETC for the award and was recognized for exceeding standards set by the Air Force in regard to training Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training student pilots, executing the annual flying hour program and squadron initiatives.

"It was a huge honor to be selected," said Lt. Col. Michael "HI HO" Silver, 85 FTS commander. "It is a nice feather in the cap. All along we have been telling the students and instructors how great they are because of how much they've accomplished despite all the obstacles. It is reassuring that the command also recognized our success."

The 84th and 85th train student pilots in the second phase of a three-phase training program. The two squadrons fly the T-37 Tweet, the Air Force's primary training aircraft. The 85th was

**See 'The best,' page 9**

## Laughlin airfield declared the busiest in the Air Force

By 1st Lt. Jon Frampton

and

Tech. Sgt. Barry West

47th Operations Support Squadron

According to the Air Forces Flight Standards Agency, the 322,508 air traffic

control operations in fiscal year 1999 made Laughlin officially the busiest airfield in the Air Force.

What makes Laughlin so busy? It's the mission. The base has been tasked to increase pilot production to offset forecasted

pilot shortages in the next few years. In 1999, the 47th Flying Training Wing graduated 329 pilots, the most in Air Education and Training Command.

The figures used by the AFFSA in declaring Laughlin the busiest do not paint an accurate picture of just how busy it is here. As an Undergraduate Pilot Training base, Laughlin uses Runway Supervisory Units to control an equal portion of arriving and departing aircraft. The number of operations handled by the RSUs, which is not included in the annual report to the AFFSA, was more than 300,000 last year – bringing the total number of operations handled here to more than 600,000. With those numbers, Laughlin compares to the fifth-busiest airport in the world.

To put Laughlin's accomplishment into perspective, all major airports operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year. Due to air traffic controller manning levels, Laughlin operates 12 hours a day, six days a week, 290 days per year – meaning the airfield operations flight accomplished its feat in much less time than major airports.

Time was not the only factor Laughlin had to deal with less of. In 1999, the base's air traffic controller manning hovered near

**See 'Airfield,' page 9**



Photo by Senior Airman Mike Hammond

Senior Airman Andy Artieda, 47th Operations Support Squadron radar approach assistant controller, and Airman 1st Class Jarret Phillips, Laughlin approach controller, control, coordinate and monitor aircraft landing at Laughlin from the Radar Approach and Control.

## the inside scoop

### Caring for our own...

The 2000 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign begins Feb. 28 and runs through March 31.

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### CSAF survey results ...

The 1999 Chief of Staff's survey reveals strides continue to be made, but improvement opportunities remain.

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### BAH rate change ...

Many Air Force members have voiced concern over the recent annual adjustment to the housing allowance rates.

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# Air Force people care for their own through Air Force Assistance Fund contributions

The 2000 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign begins Feb. 28 and runs through March 31. "Commitment to Caring" is the campaign's permanent theme.

Last year's contributions totaled nearly \$4 million. The Air Force goal for the 2000 AFAF Campaign is \$3.4 million.

The annual AFAF campaign raises money for four charitable organizations benefiting active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force people and their families,

including surviving spouses and their families.

The organizations are:

■ The Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the Air Force, which can be accessed worldwide for emergency financial assistance.

The top priority is assistance to active duty members

and their families, but consideration is given to assisting retirees and widows on a limited, case-by-case basis.

Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members on extended active duty under Title 10 U.S.C. can also be

eligible for emergency assistance when circumstances warrant. The Air Force Aid Society also offers education assistance programs, and an array of base level community enhancement programs. Local Family Support Centers can provide full details on programs and eligibility. Information is also available on the Web site at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org).

■ The Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation Inc.

The home is located in Fort Walton Beach near Eglin AFB, Fla. The home foundation provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people who live among peers sharing memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing facilities. Those eligible are widows and widowers, 55 and older, whose spouses were retired enlisted persons from the regular Air Force, Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve. For more information, e-mail them at [afewh@emeraldcoast.com](mailto:afewh@emeraldcoast.com).

■ The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund.

The Village, located in San Antonio, is a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. Their indigent widows

fund provides support to indigent widows and widowers of Air Force officers. For more information visit the Web site at [www.airforcevillages.com](http://www.airforcevillages.com).

■ The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. Not all indigent widows or widowers want, or are able to move to one of the retirement homes. The LeMay foundation provides rent and financial assistance to indigent officers' and enlisted widows or widowers in their own home and community.

For more information, visit the Web site at [www.afvw.com/lemay.html](http://www.afvw.com/lemay.html).

Donations to the AFAF campaign can be made through cash or check contributions or payroll deduction. Contributors may designate their contributions to one or more of the four charities and 100 percent of their AFAF contribution is passed to their chosen charities. Contributions to the AFAF are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes as an itemized deduction.

For more information on the AFAF campaign, check out the Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund), then click on "Fundraising." For local goals and contribution procedures, contact your local installation or unit project officers.

(Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center)



## Web-based survey on seat belt use ongoing

Air Force military and civilian employees are asked to complete an approved Web-based survey by Feb. 28 on seat belt use when traveling on official business.

The Air Force must report annually to the Department of Transportation on seat belt use among federal employees traveling on official business. The anonymous survey should take no more than 10 minutes.

Travel does not include commuting to or from your duty location, but does include either

driving or riding as a passenger in either a government or privately owned vehicle to attend a meeting at another location or other duty-required travel (including traveling by taxi to the airport for TDY). The questions only apply to seat belt-equipped vehicles.

Survey results will be aggregated and used in required reports to the president and to Congress.

They will also be used to assist federal agencies in developing programs to increase seat belt use among federal employees.

For more information, contact Lt. Col.

Kelli Ballengee at DSN 225-5978.

(Courtesy AFNS)

**Survey results will be used ... to assist federal agencies in developing programs to increase seat belt use among federal employees.**



Photo by Judson Brohmer

## Afterburners

F-22 Raptor 4001 turns on its afterburners during a high-speed, low-level test sortie at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. As part of the president's proposed fiscal 2001 defense budget, nearly \$4 billion is tagged for the F-22 program: \$1.4 billion for research and testing and \$2.5 billion to buy the first 10 combat-ready fighters. The F-22 is being put through the most extensive and sophisticated testing of any fighter ever developed.

## Actionline

Call 298-5351

when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

*Win W. Scott III*

**Col. Winfield W. Scott III**

47th Flying Training Wing commander



AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Call: I would like to take this time and thank everyone in the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron and the Laughlin Fire Department, especially John Alexander, assistant chief of fire prevention, Fire Chief Jeff Sukalski, Antonio Rodriguez, assistant chief or

training, members of the 47 CES commander's office and the fire department. They all showed kindness and helped me in many ways; they all deserve a round of applause. I am a category B Reservist who did my two-week summer camp every year at Laughlin – and they treated me like one

of their own. I will never forget my many years there. As I move on to another base not far from Laughlin, (Luke AFB, Ariz.) I hope that some day I can return to visit these friends. Once again, thank you very much.

**Robert Allard**

## Border Eagle

Col. Winfield W. Scott III  
**Commander**

1st Lt. Angela O'Connell  
**Public affairs officer**

Senior Airman Mike Hammond  
**Editor**

Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit  
**Staff writer**

(Flag design: Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes,  
7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB, Texas.)

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### Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, Ext. 5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.** Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday. Submissions can be E-mailed to: michael.hammond@laughlin.af.mil or reginald.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil Visit Laughlin's website at <http://www.laughlin.af.mil/>

***“Excellence –  
not our goal, but  
our standard.”***

– 47 FTW motto

## Safety Stats

As of Dec. 20, 1999  
(Fiscal Year)

	'00	Total '99
On-duty mishaps	1	5
Off-duty mishaps	1	12
Traffic mishaps	0	2
Sports & Rec mishaps	1	6
Fatalities	0	0

# CSAF survey results reveal certain issues still need to be addressed, given consideration

The 1999 Chief of Staff's survey reveals strides continue to be made in job satisfaction, teamwork and quality of life issues compared to 1997 results.

However, dissatisfaction is still evident in several areas, including pay, operations tempo and supervision.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan received the results of the survey, which measured the service's organizational climate and quality of life, Jan. 21. More than 190,000 responded (36 percent of the Air Force population).

The organizational climate section addressed 13 key unit level factors ranging from leadership to unit resources.

Overall results of the survey varied little from 1997. Job satisfaction remained consistent at 90 percent. Unit performance outcomes, teamwork, core values, job enhancement, and training and development fell in the 80 to 84 percent satisfaction range. General satisfaction, unit flexibility, recognition and unit resources remained nearly constant in the 66 percent to 79 percent satisfaction range.

The survey's quality of life section focused on Air Force priorities such as community programs, pay and retirement benefits, people and operations tempo, housing, educational opportunities and health care. Emphasis was also placed on more contemporary issues like readiness, retention and sense of community.

The survey revealed that 54 percent of enlisted people and 62 percent of officers are satisfied with medical care, while 42 percent of enlisted families and 45 percent of officer families are satisfied with medical care. On housing, 71 percent of married enlisted people and 73 percent of single enlisted people are satisfied, while 83 percent of married officers

and 85 percent of single officers are satisfied.

A sense of community at Air Force bases is important to 82 percent of officers, 70 percent of enlisted and 73 percent of civilians. On the issue of quality of life at duty stations, 63 percent of enlisted, 75 percent of civilians and 77 percent of officers responded positively.

Regarding career intentions (whether or not to stay in the service, or undecided), 61 percent of enlisted and 68 percent of officers indicated plans to stay, while 81 percent of civilians plan to remain in DOD service. Education programs are among the top five community programs that affect career intentions.

Between 63 and 76 percent of first and second-term airmen and company grade officers indicated that a retirement plan where everyone received 50 percent of their base pay would increase the likelihood of them staying in for 20 years. Likewise, 59 percent of career airmen and 71 percent of field grade officers said the likelihood of serving 20 years or more increased with pay raises tied to living costs.

According to survey results, there is still room for improvement in several areas, such as compensation, health care services for family members, rising operations tempo, undermanning and dissatisfaction with leadership and supervision.

Ryan said the significant pay and compensation gains made in the fiscal year 2000 defense budget should help address some of the service members' concerns expressed in the survey.

In operations tempo, the number of days spent on temporary duty and the number of hours worked per week has increased steadily since 1995, according to survey results. Of-

ficers who reported TDYs now spend an average of 62 days per year TDY and work a 55-hour week, compared to an average of 50 days TDY and a 51-hour week in 1996.

For enlisted members who reported TDYs, the average number of days spent TDY increased by 22 days to 68 days

and the hours spent at work each week have risen from 46 in 1996 to 51 in 1999. Undermanning at the work center accounted for about 15 percent of the increased number of work hours.

Overall, compared to 1997, satisfaction in supervision, participation, involvement and leadership fell by two or more percent across the board.

"I appreciate the participation by the Air Force family and I'm satisfied with the process and the initial review of the data," said Ryan. "It verified many of the things we already knew. It appears we've made progress in many areas but we still have work to do, particularly with ops tempo, compensation concerns and health care.

"Air Force people spoke their minds in the survey," said Ryan, "and Air Force leadership at all levels is listening and engaged in making n." ce)

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Survey results will be aggregated and used in required reports to the president and to Congress. They will also be used to assist federal agencies in developing programs to increase seat belt use among federal employees.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Kelli Ballengee at DSN 225-5978.

(Courtesy AFPN)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

## In check

Jaime Noyola, base fire department, checks a relief water valve on fire truck. Noyola was named Firefighter of the Year for Laughlin. He will go on to compete at the AETC level.

## The *XLer*

**Hometown:** Bernardsville, N.J.  
**Family:** Husband, Boyd Robinson; stepchildren, Bronwyn, Lisa and Mitchell.  
**Time at Laughlin:** 8 months.  
**Time in service:** 19 years.  
**Why did you join the Air Force?** At the time, there weren't many female pilots. The Air Force allowed me to do something most people dream of – fly airplanes.  
**Name one way to improve life at Laughlin:** Improve the school system by making it more competitive.  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Finding a wonderful family after 40 years of looking.  
**Long-term goals:** To look back at the end of my life and say that what I did was good.  
**Hobbies:** Painting, reading and hiking with my husband.  
**Favorite food:** Chocolate



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

**Lt. Col. LynnAnne Robinson**  
*84th Flying Training Squadron*

cake, cookies and ice cream.  
**Favorite beverage:** Milk.  
**Bad habit:** Ice cream.  
**If you could spend one hour with any person in history, who**

**would it be and why?**  
George Bush. I'd love to ask him about his about his decision to raise taxes after his "read my lips" statement.

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic

-**Daily Mass** 12:05 p.m.  
-**Saturday Mass** 5 p.m.  
-**Sunday Mass** 9:30 a.m.  
-**Confession** 4:15 - 4:45 p.m. Saturday, or by appointment.  
-**Choir** 6 p.m. Thursdays.  
-**Sunday school** 11 a.m., religious education building.

-Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., religious education building.

-Awana, Wednesdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
(For more information on AWANA, call Mike or Karen Silver at 298-3247).

### Jewish

– Max Stool  
219 West Strickland St.  
Del Rio, Texas  
Phone: 775-4519

### Protestant

-General worship 11 a.m.  
-Bible study video luncheon 11 a.m. Thursday, chapel fellowship hall.

The Oasis Room, (front entrance of Bldg. 328), is a place for comfort and confidential counseling! Sponsored by your base chaplains!

To schedule the Oasis Room for small Bible studies, prayer meetings, or counseling appointments with a chaplain, call the chapel at

5111 or the Oasis Room at 4975 during the hours listed above.

*For more information on chapel events and services, call 5111.*



# Department of Defense addresses certain BAH concerns

**By Senior Airman A.J. Bosker**  
*Air Force Print News*

Many Air Force members have voiced concerns over the recent annual adjustment to the Basic Allowance for Housing rates, according to defense officials.

"The goal of the BAH rate adjustment was to develop a system where military members can be assured, based on their pay grade and dependency status, that they will have a constant out-of-pocket housing expense regardless of where in the country they are stationed," said Navy Capt. Elliott Bloxom, director of compensation, Department of Defense.

"For example, a senior airman stationed at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., might have a \$130 out-of-pocket cost for housing," he said. "Now, if the senior airman were to receive orders to a base where the cost of living is significantly higher, the new higher rate of BAH for that geographic area would cover all but the same \$130 out-of-pocket cost for housing.

"Before FY98, our housing allowances had two components that were established based on what service members reported they were spending on housing," Boxom said. "The first element, Basic Allowance for Quarters, was adjusted by the pay raise amount and provided a floor for payments. The Variable Housing Allowance was based upon service members' reported expenditures above the BAQ rate.

"There were inequities in the old way business was conducted," he said.

"Junior people, with little or no disposable income, living in high-cost areas would move into a smaller house or apartment or live in an undesirable neighborhood," he said. "This economizing led them to report lower housing costs, generating lower allowances. Senior people, many with larger disposable incomes, moved into larger homes or apartments and spent more on housing.

Their higher reported costs generated higher housing allowances."

According to the captain, money added in past years to lower out-of-pocket housing costs had little effect. The allowance increases often would be used to secure a larger house or apartment, leading to even higher reported expenditures. This created a cycle of inflated allowances in some locations for some grades would not be used for the intended purpose of covering expenses.

The new method of determining housing allowances shifts from what members report they spend on housing to what housing actually costs in a civilian community.

"The objective is to have our people enjoy the same standard of living, in terms of housing, as anyone in the local community earning the same amount of money," he said.

To accomplish this, Bloxom said they have a contractor look at civilians in a specific geographic area with comparable incomes as military members and base the housing allowance standard on where those civilians live and their cost for housing. The contractor annually evaluates and averages the rent, utilities and cost for renter's insurance. These elements are used to determine cost for housing.

"The BAH rate is what we pay our members to rent the dwellings civilians of like income rent in town," he said. "This develops standards [of housing] for our members to live in, but we don't make them live in that standard of housing.

In many cases, people choose to live in a smaller place or opt to live in a larger apartment and pay more for rent."

This is the final year of a transition from the old to the new housing allowance system. Consequently, there were many rate adjustments.

"Throughout DOD, the increases in housing allowances exceeded the de-

creases," Bloxom said. "Sixty-two percent of enlisted members and 51 percent of officers saw increases in the BAH rate. For the other 38 percent of enlisted members and 49 percent of officers, rate protection is provided. The rate protection ensures members in an area do not get less than what they received last year.

"We originally expected five to six years of gradual declines in areas where the rate was to decrease and gradual increases over the same time where the rates were to increase," he said. "However, additional money in last year's authorization bill enabled us to immediately increase or decrease the rates.

Initially, this has caused a lot of shock around the country where the rates have decreased. Yet, the additional money also enabled us to provide rate protection for people currently stationed in areas where the allowances decreased.

"Rate protection is provided to our military members currently stationed in areas where there were decreases because we feel it is critical for someone who negotiated a lease based upon a predetermined income to be protected from increasing their out-of-pocket expenses," he said. "They will continue to be rate protected until they leave that particular location."

Military members who have a permanent change of station move within the same geographic location and continue to maintain the same residence also will remain under rate protection.

"An Air Force member stationed at the Pentagon who receives a duty assignment to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., will continue to be rate protected," Bloxom said. "It is our intent, if the



Military members receive rate-protected BAH unless they are demoted, have a change in status or move into base housing, such as this enlisted house on base.

member lives in the same military housing area, only with a different commute, they remain rate protected since their lease has already been established."

If a member currently under rate protection is promoted, they will continue under rate protection unless the BAH rate for the new grade they are being promoted to is higher.

"In these cases, they will move to the higher rate," he said. "If the BAH rate for the new rank is not higher, they will stay at the rate-protected level until the BAH rate catches up to or surpasses the rate-protected level."

According to Bloxom, military members lose their rate protection only if they get demoted, move into base housing or have a change in their dependency status.

"The adjustments have created some concerns in areas where the BAH rates decreased," Bloxom said. "What many service members don't realize is wherever they get stationed in the country, the amount they are spending out-of-pocket for housing will now be constant.

"And with Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen's initiative to eliminate the median rental out-of-pocket expenditures by 2005, service members can be comfortable knowing they will be protected no matter where they go in the country without the added burden of having to reach deeper into their pockets."

(Courtesy AFPN)

# In forming a cohesive team and promoting maximum mission accomplishment ... Diversity makes the difference

By Senior Airman Oshawn Jefferson

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

The differences that make every individual special are issues that never seem to die in the world. We see negative examples like John Rocker hurling racial stereotypes during an interview, the dragging death of James Byrd and the Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas sexual harassment trial – illustrating that racism, social inequality and religious discrimination are still hot issues. Even with incidents of racial and social injustice surrounding us, there are also positive examples of change.

“The Military Equal Opportunity Office was born in a time of turmoil, is striving to make life better for all airmen and to eliminate barriers to peak mission accomplishment,” said Capt. Roger Scott, 325th Fighter Wing military equal opportunity office chief. “We think our vision statement says it all, ‘Fostering mutual respect and cooperation among all persons to enhance mission effectiveness and readiness.’”

Executive order 8802, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941, prohibited discrimination based on race, creed, color or national origin in defense industries of government. This order was the beginning of a long journey toward equality in the armed forces. Seven years later, Executive Order 9981 ordered the integration of the armed forces and declared there shall be equal treatment for all persons in the armed forces.

“This placed the military light years ahead of the rest of society,” Scott said.

On the horizon loomed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 11375 prohibiting discrimination based on sex and changed “creed” to religion. The military became a reflection of the society it protected.

During the civil rights movement, minority airmen began demanding equal treatment and women began demanding more respect.

“These actions brought about changes that allowed women equal opportunity in employment and promotion, and harassment-free work environments,” said Tech. Sgt. Bridget Batiste, 325 FW MEO office superintendent. “Women and minorities have earned respect and admiration from our nation.”

During this time, several marches, disruptive events, and racial disturbances occurred at several American military installations. In a series of events May 22-24, 1971, the largest outbreak of racial violence in Air Force history occurred at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. More than 200 airmen brawled over that three-day period, sending shock waves throughout the Air Force.

After the incident, complaints by black airmen ranged from discrimination in assignments to lack of recreational facilities. At first, the official explanation of the violence was that it was a “spill over” from the stream of racial prejudice that infects society at large. After a week of official visits by general officers and Pentagon officials, the Air Force felt there had been a critical breakdown between leadership and the needs of its people.

According to Scott, this illustrated the importance of leadership and of listening to, and acting upon people’s concerns. Also, it shows that followers in today’s Air Force bring about change in much more constructive ways.

On, June 24, 1971, on the recommendation of the Department of Defense, the Defense Race Relations Institute was established to better meet the social needs of

service members in the armed forces. Two days later, the first social actions office was opened at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

“This was the beginning of DOD’s never-ending quest to keep troops educated on DOD policy, fair treatment and zero tolerance for discrimination,” Scott said.

Since its inception, the social actions office has expanded its role from just focusing on racism to handling issues like sexual harassment, national origin, color and religion. Also, discrimination based upon age, disabilities and reprisal are covered for DOD civilian employees.

“Our whole focus is on education and prevention,” Scott said. “We’d much rather prevent discrimination than see commanders have to punish people for violating policies they know very well.

Equal opportunity is everyone in the Air Force’s responsibility, not just our office’s role. Commanders, supervisors, DOD civilian and contractor employees, are the ones who set the climate – our role is very small.”

In today’s military, the bottom line is clear – the Air Force will not tolerate unlawful discrimination (e.g., disparaging terms/comments/jokes, unequal treatment, etc.). “Our leaders expect that all people are to be judged on the merits of their work and the content of their character versus their race sex religion, national origin or color,” Scott said. “Do you think the St. Louis Rams would have won the Super Bowl if the players of different races and national origins didn’t get along? No way! Likewise, we can’t have optimum mission accomplishment in the Air Force if we don’t gel as a team.”

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

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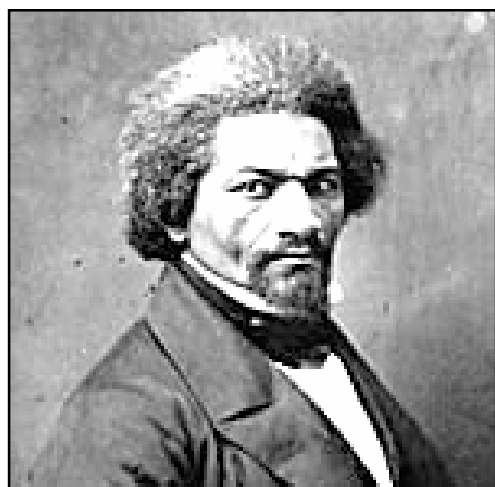
***“Do you think the St. Louis Rams would have won the Super Bowl if the players of different races and national origins didn’t get along? No way!”***

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**-Capt. Roger Scott**

325 FW military equal opportunity office

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**Frederick Douglass**

## African-American abolitionist: Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass, (1818?-1895), was the leading spokesman of African Americans in the 1800s. Born a slave, Douglass became a noted reformer, author and orator. He devoted his life to the abolition of slavery and fighting for the rights of African Americans.

At the age of 8, Douglass was sent to Baltimore to work for one of his master’s relatives. There, helped by the wife of his new master, he began to educate himself.

In 1838, he fled from his master. He got a job as a caulker, but the other men

refused to work with him because he was black. Douglass then held a number of unskilled jobs, among them collecting rubbish and digging cellars.

In 1841, at a meeting of the Massachusetts Antislavery Society, Douglass told what freedom meant to him. The society was so impressed with his speech that it hired him to lecture about his experiences as a slave. In the early 1840s, he protested against segregated seating on trains by sitting in cars reserved for whites. He had to be dragged from the

white cars.

In 1845, Douglass published his autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. He feared that his identity as a runaway slave would be revealed when the book was published, so he went to England. There, Douglass continued to speak against slavery.

During the Civil War, Douglass helped recruit African Americans for the Union Army. He discussed the problems of slavery with President Abraham Lincoln several times.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

## Congratulations!

Col. Skip Scott, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, congratulates newly-promoted Master Sgt. James Flower, 47th Medical Group, on being promoted through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.

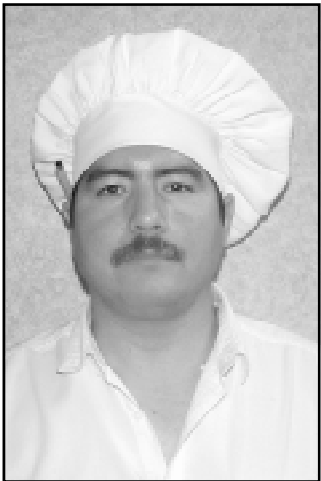
**Border Eagle deadline ...  
is Thursday, the week prior to  
date of publication.**

## Explain which president made the most significant contribution to our country?



“Abraham Lincoln. In the midst of a national crisis, (Civil War), he stayed true to his calling as president.”

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.)  
James Hough**  
*Base chapel*



“John F. Kennedy. He was very forceful in the politics of the Cold War.”

**Edward Venegas**  
*Chaparral Dining Hall*



“Richard Nixon. He took the first trip to China and opened up a relationship between the Americans and Chinese.”

**Senior Airman  
Douanychan  
Lasrithammavan**  
*47th Operations Support  
Squadron*



“Ronald Reagan. He started the fight on terrorism.”

**Staff Sgt.  
Michael Sullivan**  
*47th Security Forces Squadron*

### **'Airfield,' from page 1**

50 percent. The Radar Approach Control had 22 of the 48 controllers authorized to operate. The Laughlin Control Tower had eight of the 12 controllers authorized.

Although controller manning was at an all-time low, the flight managed to incorporate a new ATC Officer Training Program into a highly tasked controller training program. Although those in the OTP are not trained to the same level as a fully qualified controller, they receive one year's worth of training in five months. Before the base started the OTP, the RAPCON generally had about 30 enlisted trainees at any given time. With that amount of people in training, there was less time for individual attention – and there was a 70 percent elimination rate from training. When the OTP began, the Air Force started sending fewer enlisted trainees (about 15 at any given time). Since the officers are not trained as extensively in this area as the enlisted corps – and with fewer enlisted trainees,

more time is spent training the enlisted controllers. As a result, the training elimination rate has been cut in half – to 35 percent, currently. This means more trainees can become qualified controllers, which may represent light at the end of the “manning” tunnel.

In addition to the accomplishments of the control tower and RAPCON, Laughlin Base Operations and Airfield Management provided top-notch support for the wing. Maintaining the busiest airfield in the Air Force is a daunting task, since the work generally must be completed while the planes are not flying. No project could have been completed without the superb coordination skills and “can-do” approach of base operations and airfield management.

Despite the significant challenges of low manning and having to implement the OTP from ground zero, the 47th Operations Group set the example for other AETC bases to follow by simultaneously meeting a demanding mission while taking care of the

people. To balance the potential impact to flight safety, Col. Larry Stutzriem, 47 OG commander, directed an Operational Risk Management analysis to be conducted in April 1999 to determine what risks were being taken.

From the ORM, flying windows were developed based on controller availability to safely cover the window. Through the use of complicated controller duty schedules and reduced flying windows, the 47 OG met flying training needs while maintaining a safer training environment for student pilots.

In 1999, Laughlin controllers and other base agencies handled more than 550 aircraft emergencies without an incident. Given the operational tempo, that is a testament to the hard work and dedication of “team Laughlin.”

It's important to note the importance of the 47th Support Group in the continuing safety and efficiency of operations. The 47 SPTG completed projects from replacing the VORTAC roof to repainting the airfield without a negative impact to the mission.

While the hard work and dedication of all units on base contributed to the safety of operations at the Air Force's busiest airfield, the controllers who provide for the safety of the airspace are directly vital to the mission here.

“Never in my more than 21 years of service have I seen this amount of work done by so few,” said Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Fortin, RAPCON chief controller. “It's a testament to the dedication of these controllers.”

Capt. David Merritt, Airfield Operations Flight commander, added. “For the controllers working at the busiest airfield in the Air Force – with the manning issues they overcame – thanks for a job well done!”

### **'The best,' from page 1**

tasked to train 249 students in fiscal year 1999 and graduated 230, which is 1.5 percent under programmed attrition of 9.1 percent. One hundred percent of those 230 students went on to graduate SUPT with their wings.

At the beginning of the year, several obstacles faced Laughlin's flying training squadrons. Following the flood of 1998, the base flying training squadrons were already behind in Air Force tasking requirements, Silver explained. In addition to the flood, there was a big bird hazard problem to deal with – more than 1,100 scheduled sorties were lost because of the possibility of bird strikes.

Variations in flying schedules had to be made to compensate for time lost because of the flood, birds and shortening of flying hours due to Rapid Approach and Control manning constraints. The 85th flew more than 100 missions each day while sharing aircraft with the 84th. Both squadrons also flew on Veterans Day and 11 weekends to compensate for the lost training days.

At the end of the fiscal year, 40,007 T-37 sorties were flown without a single Class A or B incident, which Silver said is amazing considering the circumstances. “We met and surpassed the mission, and never once compromised safety,” he continued. “Everyone performed superbly and is certainly deserving of this distinguished award.”

Although this is an award for the 85th, Silver emphasized that Laughlin's T-37 operation is seamless. “The award could just as easily have gone to the 84th Panthers,” he said. “However, since only one squadron could represent Laughlin, we submitted the 85th because the 84th wasn't formed until after the fiscal year had begun. Regardless, this is truly a T-37 award and honor for the entire Laughlin XL Team.”

The 85th will go on to compete against three other category winners for the overall AETC squadron of the year. The overall winner will be announced during the spring AETC commander's conference.



Photo by Senior Airman Mike Hammond

Senior Airman Danika Dry, 47th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, sends a signal from one of two light guns in the air traffic control tower.



## From the Blotter

(47th Security Forces Squadron)



**Feb. 9** – Security Forces Investigations impounded an abandoned vehicle. Attempts are currently being made to find the owner.

**Feb. 10** – Personnel from the XL Fitness Center reported a computer memory chip was stolen from one of their government computers. An investigation is pending.

**Feb. 12** – An individual from another installation had their wallet stolen while in Acuna, Mexico. An investigation is pending.

**Feb. 12** – One military member assaulted another military member while attempting to enter the main gate. Security

Forces front gate personnel apprehended the violator and medical personnel transported the victim to Val Verde Regional Medical Center for treatment.

**Feb. 13** – A military family member reported having chest pains. An ambulance was dispatched and transported to personnel to Val Verde Regional Medical Center.

**Notes** – The weather is getting nicer and more bicyclists are out and about. Everyone should try to remember that bicycle safety, including wearing helmets, using lights during hours of darkness and following traffic laws.

*EMERGENCY CALL 911, NON-EMERGENCY CALL 5100*

**Check out Laughlin's home page at**  
**[http://www. Laughlin.af.mil.](http://www.Laughlin.af.mil)**

## 47th Medical Group

Low back pain is one of the 10 most common reasons why patients visit primary care physicians. In 1991, the cost of low back pain in the U.S. was estimated at \$25 billion annually.

Acute low back pain is common because the lower back carries most of the body's weight. It can be caused by many conditions. Some are serious, but most are benign.

The usual causes this condition include muscle strains, spasms and osteoarthritis. Muscle strains and spasms occur due to improper or excess lifting or twisting of the back. In osteoarthritis, the cushion discs between the bones in the spine become dry and hard which can lead to pain.

In most cases, back pain improves in two to four weeks using conservative therapy. Conservative therapy includes over-the-counter pain relievers such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen, ice application to the lower back for the first 24 hours and low-intensity heat two to three times a day on the following days.

A gentle return to normal activities is encouraged. Strict bed rest does not help and can actually slow the healing process. If the low back pain persists after six weeks of conservative therapy, visit a doctor.

Some of the warning signs associated with back pain may signal a more serious problem, includes fever, past use of steroids, involuntary weight loss, worsening of the pain at rest, bladder or bowel problems and a history of cancer.

For more information visit <http://www.ahcpr.gov>.



# Class 00-05 graduates new home

Student Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 00-05 graduates at 10 a.m. today in a ceremony at the Operations Training Complex auditorium. The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Tom Hruby.

The 52-week SUPT program prepares student pilots for the entire spectrum of Air Force aircraft and flying missions. Training begins with three weeks of physiological and academic training to prepare students for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine subsonic T-37 Tweet. In the T-37, students learn flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing, aerobatics and formation flying.



**Class leader**  
**Capt. David B. Faulkner**  
A-10 New Orleans (AFRES)



**Assistant class leader**  
**2nd Lt. Juan A. Torres**  
KC-10 Travis AFB, Calif.



**Capt. Danny K. Conway II**  
KC-135 Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C. (AFRES)



**2nd Lt. John H. Avery**  
B-1 Dyess AFB, Texas



**2nd Lt. Kyle H. Goldstein**  
F-15 Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Christopher B. Haines**  
C-141 McChord AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Edward Jones**  
F-16 Springfield, Ill. (AFRES)



**2nd Lt. Stephanie L. Kelsen**  
F-16 Fargo, N.D. (ANG)



**2nd Lt. Stuart M. Rubio**  
T-1 Laughlin AFB, Texas



**2nd Lt. Anthony T. Shafer, Jr.**  
C-21 Andrews AFB, Md.



**2nd Lt. Benjamin L. Slinkard**  
C-17 - McChord AFB, Wash.



# 00-05 es to rizons

Primary training consists of 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 flying hours.

After primary training, the future pilots are selected for advanced in-flight training in a specialized area or track. The tracks include tanker, bomber and cargo pilot training in the T-1 aircraft, fighter pilot training in the T-38, turbo propeller aircraft training in the Navy's T-44, and helicopter training in the Army's UH-1.

Advanced training takes about 26 weeks and involves 381 hours of ground events, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 flying hours. Graduates of Class 00-05 have been assigned to aircraft at duty stations throughout the world.



**2nd Lt. Emil L. Bliss**  
T-37 Laughlin AFB, Texas



**2nd Lt. Keith L. Boswell**  
KC-135 Grand Forks AFB, N.C.



**2nd Lt. Cary A. Chapin**  
C-130 St. Paul, Minn. (ANG)



**2nd Lt. Titus M. Dan**  
KC-135 Robins AFB, Ga.



**2nd Lt. Lawrence C. Klein**  
KC-135 Fairchild AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Patrick J. McCoy**  
C-17 Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Jess A. Melin**  
T-37 Laughlin AFB, Texas



**2nd Lt. Kennan E. Pichirilo**  
E-3 Kadena AB, Japan



**2nd Lt. Michael G. Sommers**  
A-10 Davis Mothan AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Peter W. Upson**  
C-5 Dover AFB, Delaware



**2nd Lt. Bradley D. White**  
C-17 Charleston AFB, S.C.



# CENSUS Bureau seeks servicemembers to participate, contribute in Census 2000

The Census Bureau is asking Air Force members to perform one more civic duty: to make sure they are counted in Census 2000.

Just as the Census Bureau is asking the public at large to participate in Census 2000, it also is asking the men and women of the armed services to cooperate with census-takers this year. The Census Bureau has entered into partnerships with each branch of the armed services and has provided them with plans and materials for enumeration.

Census Day is April 1. Military Census 2000 will be conducted during the week of April 3-7.

Including stateside and overseas armed forces personnel in the official state totals will help determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census information also helps decision-makers understand where to build hospitals and highways and which neighborhoods need new schools, more services for the elderly or housing assistance. People who answer the census also help their communities obtain the correct amount of state and federal funding.

The majority of people in the United States will be counted in Census 2000 at their usual residence, the place where they live and sleep most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as the person's voting or legal residence. Determining one's usual residence is easy for most people, but it may not be so apparent for people in the armed forces and their families.

People in the armed forces residing in the United States are counted at their usual residence (the place where they live and sleep most of the time), whether

it is on or off the military installation.

People in the armed forces assigned to military installations outside the United States, including family members with them, are counted through the administrative records of their service branch as part of the U.S. overseas population.

Armed forces personnel housed at installations in the United States and its territories receive a specially designed form at their work unit. They are instructed to complete and return it to their unit representative. On this form, personnel can claim their usual home address on or off the installation.

Armed forces personnel living in conventional housing in the United States, either on or off an installation, also will receive a household questionnaire. Housing on the installation is enumerated through the same procedures the Census Bureau uses for housing in the surrounding area. It is important for armed forces personnel living in conventional housing to fill out both the household questionnaire and the special form they receive at their work unit. The Census Bureau will eliminate any duplication during processing.

It is also important that everyone answer all the questions on the census forms. Answers are confidential and no data on any individual or family will be published. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with others, including

welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization

Service, the Internal Revenue Service, the courts, the police or the armed forces. The census employees and armed forces personnel who help with the census at

the installation are sworn to protect the confidentiality of all answers. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to five years in prison, \$5,000 in fines or both. The law works — millions of questionnaires were processed following the

1990 census without a single breach of trust.

If there is someone in a military family looking for work, the census also provides opportunities for employment. Hiring enumerators from the community to be enumerated is an important part of the strategy for Census 2000.

Census workers receive up to three days of paid training in organization, reading maps, filling out forms, interviewing and dealing with difficult or unusual interviewing situations. They work in their own communities with daily hands-on coaching from a supervisor. In addition to performing work important to their community, successful employees will receive a letter from the Census Bureau documenting their acquired skills. The Census Bureau is actively seeking bilingual recruits to staff facilities and conduct the census in areas where foreign languages are spoken. Call 1-888-325-7733 toll-free for more information. (Courtesy U.S. Census Bureau)

**Census workers receive up to three days of paid training in organization, reading maps, filling out forms, interviewing and dealing with difficult or unusual interviewing situations.**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

## Making the rounds

2nd Lt. Vanessa Hillman, 47th Operations Support Squadron, briefs Lt. Col. Lenny Jankowski, 47 OSS commander, on the arrival of international officers for student undergraduate pilot training. Jankowski assumed command of the squadron in January from Lt. Col. Curtis Quimby.

## Right toothpaste, floss important to dental health

By Capt. Paul F.T. Ayson  
47th Medical Group

It's always difficult to decide on the type of toothpaste, toothbrush or mouth rinse to use.

The burden of choice is still with the parents when it's time to choose the proper toothpaste, floss or mouth rinse. As adults, there are so many different products to choose from. The same problem exists for children's dental products.

How is a parent to choose from all these different products? Well, it really doesn't matter what brand you choose as long as the toothpaste contains fluoride. Whether the toothpaste is a gel, paste or in powder form doesn't matter. All fluoride toothpaste works very well in fighting plaque and cavities.

Another thing to look for when choosing toothpaste is for the American Dental Association seal of approval. This tells you that products with this seal have adequately shown evidence of safety and efficacy and have demonstrated it.

Toothbrushes will also give you the same type of problem, as will floss. So how do you choose the right one for you and your kids? To decide what toothbrush to get is very easy. Make sure that your toothbrush has soft nylon bristles with rounded ends. All the others are not recommended because they will cause problems later on, like abrading tooth enamel away.

Deciding on floss is just as easy. Buy the one you prefer the most. The main thing for you is to floss at least once a day. All flosses work the same, so pick the one you like.

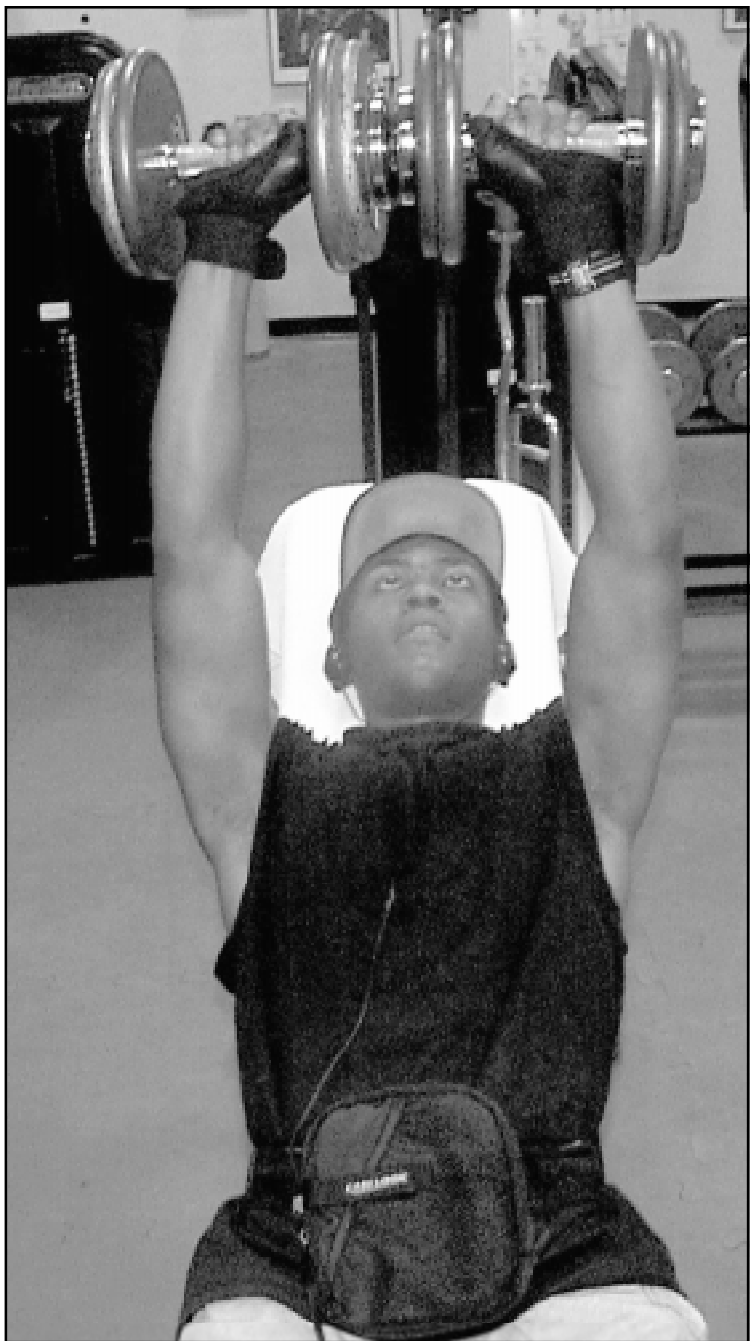
To summarize, pick toothpaste that provides fluoride. It doesn't matter what type it is as long as it has the American Dental Association seal of approval on it.

If you're choosing a toothbrush, make sure it is made with soft bristles and to choose a floss it doesn't matter what brand it is; what matters is that you need to floss at least once a day. Remember that brushing and flossing will keep the cavity creeps away.

check this  
out!



For Air Force news, turn these pages every Friday.  
For more news, go to the web every Wednesday.  
<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>.



### Feeling the burn

Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Airman 1st Class Johnny Robinson, 47th Security Forces Squadron, finishes up a set of inclined butterfly repetitions at the XL Fitness Center Thursday.

### *Intramural basketball standings*

#### Eastern conference

<u>Teams</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>
CES	2	0
87 FTS	1	0
LCSAM	1	1
OSS I	0	1
SFS	0	1

#### Western conference

<u>Teams</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>
CS/SVS	2	0
MDG	2	0
86 FTS	1	1
MSS	0	2
OSS II	0	2

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### Bowling standings

*The XL Fitness Center is looking for those interested in forming an intramural trap and skeet league. For more information, call Staff Sgt. John Fastinger at 5251.*

**The great outdoors...  
Camp safe!**

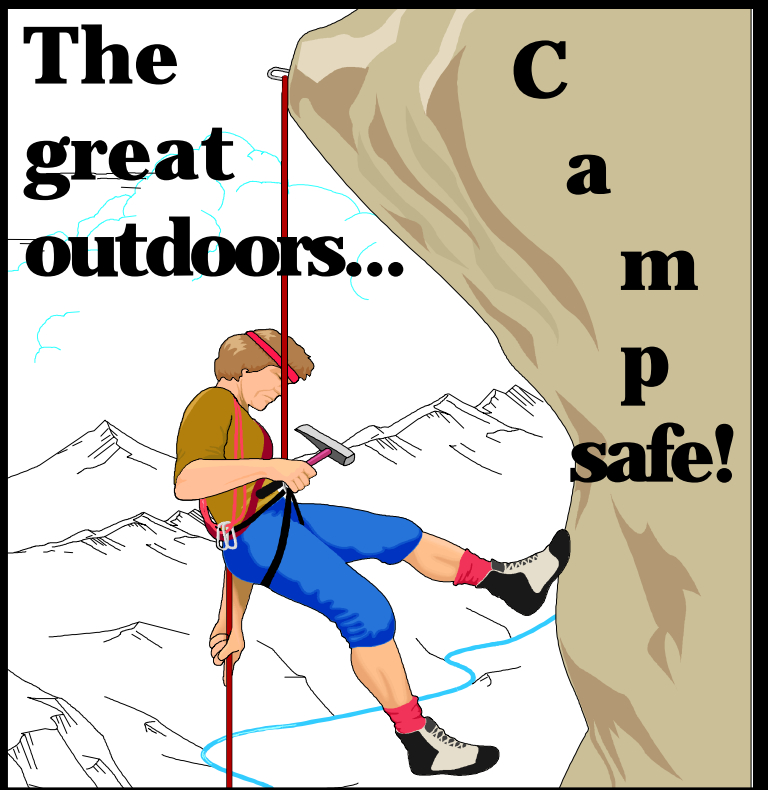






Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

## Stealthy visitor

A B-2 Stealth bomber from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., flies low over a group of Laughlin's T-1A Jayhawks the afternoon of Feb. 10. The B-2 flyover was part of an effort to recruit instructor pilots here to become B-2 pilots.

## PA notes

■ The Border Eagle editor is TDY until March 30. Please send all submissions and correspondence relating to the base newspaper during this time to Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff at: [reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil).

■ Publication deadline for items submitted to the Border Eagle is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, one week prior to the issue you want the item to appear in.

■ The public affairs office will be closed for training Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call 5262.

## SGLI payment change

The Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance will no longer mail the beneficiary a check for the amount of the insurance proceeds. Effective June 1, 1999 a Prudential Alliance Account became the standard method of payment for all OSGLI claims.

The Prudential Alliance Account is a personalized interest-bearing checking account for beneficiaries of group life insurance proceeds of \$5000 or more. The beneficiary can withdraw all or part of the proceeds immediately or leave the funds in the account to earn interest from the date the Alliance Account is opened.

As soon as the account is opened, the beneficiaries are mailed an Alliance Account kit with the checking account. A representative will call the beneficiary when the kit is mailed to explain that it will be arriving in a few days.

### Advantages:

■ The Alliance Account allows recipients the time necessary to make serious financial decisions during a difficult period.

■ Recipients will have *immediate access* to their funds through the checking account (withdrawals are subject to a \$250 minimum).

■ Funds in the account earn interest from the date the Alliance Account is opened.

■ Beneficiaries will have access to a toll-free customer service number for times when questions or concerns arise.

The account is automatically closed if the balance falls below \$250. If the account is closed, a check will be sent immediately to the beneficiaries for the balance – including accrued interest.

## Comptroller Flight closure

The 47th Comptroller Flight will close at 3 p.m. today for commander's call. In case of an emergency, call 703-1890.

## American Legion meeting

The Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post No. 298 will hold its regular meeting 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at "The Barn" across from Laughlin's main gate. Members are asked to bring this year's dues. Discussion will cover this year's activities and more.

Anyone interested in veteran and military affairs and benefits is invited to attend. Active duty military are eligible for membership. Come join us! For more information, contact Murry Kachel, commander, at 298-2097 or visit our web site: <http://www.delrio.com/~mkachel/al/index.htm>

## IA month

As a reminder to all government computer users, per AFI 33-129, *Transmission of Information Via the Internet*, you are only allowed to visit Internet sites needed for you to conduct your official duties.

## Education notes

■ Active duty personnel interested in taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the American College Testing Assessment should contact the Laughlin Education Office at 5545.

■ Interested in taking the CLEP English Composition with essay? It is free for active duty military and \$44 for civilians. It is tentatively scheduled for April 14 at 8 a.m. in the education center. The sign up deadline is March 1. Call 5545 for more details or to sign up.

■ Park University Spring II term runs March 20 through May 14. Registration begins Feb. 28. Don't miss out! Stop by the Education Center or call 5593 for more information.

## Federal Women's Program

The Federal Women's Program will have a table at the Anything Goes Flea Market Feb. 26. Funds raised will be used for the upcoming March Women's History Month activities. Items are needed for the flea market. If you have items you would like to donate, call Barbara Voss at 5590. Pickup of donated items is possible.

## OSC/ECSC cookbook sale

The Laughlin Officers Spouse Club/Enlisted and Civilian Spouse Club wing cookbooks are available while supplies last!

The book offers 564 recipes for \$10.

For more information or to order, contact Laurie Frampton at 298-2127 or Tracy Jarman at 298-0497.

## Scholarship opportunities

The Officers' Spouses Club at Laughlin is offering both academic and vocational scholarships to graduating seniors in the Del Rio, Comstock and Brackettville communities. For specific guidelines, eligibility and application forms, see your high school counselor.

The OSC is also offering scholarships to E-4 and below active duty members and spouses. Contact the Laughlin Education Office at 298-5545 for eligibility, guidelines and application forms.

For more information, call Camisha Dickinson, scholarship chairman, at 298-2815. Don't delay – the deadline for all applications is April 14.

## Financial help

Experiencing financial woes and want to remain anonymous? Call the financial assistance hotline at 4342. No question is too big or too small. We are here to help, and all you need to do is take the first step – call.

## Missing painting

If you have information on an oil painting of a C-47 in flight, please call 1st Lt. Melissa Cunningham at 5293.

## Toastmasters

The Laughlin Toastmasters International Club meets in the base chapel fellowship hall every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Guests are welcome, and brown bag lunches are acceptable. Membership is open to the entire community.

For more information on the Toastmasters, visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org), contact Kirk Johnson at [J3997@email.msn.com](mailto:J3997@email.msn.com), or call 298-7824.

## Patient interpreters needed

The 47th Medical Group needs interpreters for patients. Anyone proficient in a second language and interested in interpreting for patients who do not speak English, call Master Sgt. Mark Bowersox at 6302.